

the best "Local Hero" video. Videos in the Local Hero category profile an individual who represents accomplishments, heroism or spirit, and demands our attention and adulation. The video created by the Weehawken school KWN team used a series of on-camera narrators, interviews, still photographs, and home video footage to create a moving portrait of one of their classmates, 12-year-old Lenny Rodriguez, a cancer survivor who made the hard decision to have his leg amputated. In choosing the Theodore Roosevelt School, the judges selected "Our Little Giant Dares to Dream," an inspirational story about one person's extraordinary triumph over adversity. I commend Mr. Jon Hammer, 7th grade teacher and KWN coordinator, and 6th grade teacher Eileen Hochman for their generous time and support given to the Weehawken KWN team to produce such an outstanding and special video.

I am very familiar with Panasonic's Kid Witness News program. It is a hands-on, video education program, in more than 200 primarily inner-city schools in 120 U.S. cities. Using Panasonic-supplied equipment to create video projects, young people are encouraged to develop their creative, communication, and technical skills through video production. Annual awards are presented to student teams in various categories, including Best Video, Documentary, Local Hero, Multiculturalism, and News at a special program held in New Jersey each spring.

Theodore Roosevelt School was the very first participating school in Panasonic's KWN student news program. Mr. Anthony LaBruno, the school's principal, clearly understands the students' pride in accomplishing from these kinds of programs. Congratulations to him, to the KWN program advisers, and to the students of Theodore Roosevelt School for work well done. And a special recognition and best wishes to Lenny Rodriguez, a very courageous young man.

For 11 years the Panasonic KWN program has been helping young people learn about issues that affect them, their classmates and their community. And in its efforts to bridge the digital divide, KWN encourages students' discovery of what technology can do to enhance their educational experience. Therefore, I commend Don Iwatani, Panasonic's Chairman and CEO of North American operations, for his leadership and support. The effort of KWN to bring information, knowledge, and understanding of current events to tomorrow's citizens will make a difference in the world we all share. Kid Witness News certainly has made a difference in the lives of children in New Jersey and throughout the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the talented students and teachers who have contributed to the great success of Panasonic's Kid Witness News program.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE M. GLATT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend

and constituent of the sixth district whose unselfish service for over 35 years has left a lasting impression in the hearts of members of both her Temple and her community.

Born in Poland and raised in a Yiddish-speaking home in Montreal, following her family's 1930 emigration to Canada, Anne M. Glatt's early education included both public school and a six-day cheder. After three years of college, Anne moved to the United States in 1950, living first in the Branch Brook Park section of Newark, NJ, then Jamestown, NY, and finally settling down in the Edison-Highland Park area in July, 1964.

When she arrived, Anne immediately began looking for a Hebrew School for her three daughters and called the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center. Once all financial arrangements for her daughters' schooling were arranged, Anne politely suggested to Executive Director Reuben S. Silver that the Temple might be able to use a bookkeeper. Director Silver agreed and thus began an extraordinary relationship that continues to this day. Anne was kindly welcomed by all at the Temple, and found a particularly warm friend in the new young Rabbi Yakov R. Hilsenrath, with whom she often engaged in spirited conversation.

After having been single for 23 years, Anne met Moishe Glatt in 1982, and the two were married in 1986. They will soon be celebrating 15 wonderful years together.

Anne has been a loving mother, grandmother, wife, sister, and most of all, friend to everyone who has had the good fortune of meeting her. She has been the caring voice on the other end of the phone, shining smile behind the desk, and confidante in times of need. Her genuinely good nature and tireless devotion to her community have rightfully earned her the Temple's prestigious Chaver Award for exemplary service.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Anne M. Glatt for her nearly four decades of dedication to the Highland Park Jewish community and wish her all the best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of China on Taiwan prepares to celebrate President Chen Shui-bian's first anniversary in office, I wish to extend to President Chen and the people of Taiwan my congratulations.

Despite its diplomatic isolation, Taiwan is a proud nation that has made extraordinary progress in recent years. It has an exemplary democracy with free elections, free press and respect for human rights.

For decades, the United States and its people are united in supporting Taiwan's pursuit of freedom and democracy. We will continue to support Taiwan and its people. Peace and security in the Taiwan Strait is vital to the security interests of all nations in the area.

Congratulations, President Chen on a job well done.

MEMORIALIZING MARY BIANCHINI'S LIFE AND SERVICE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life and service of my dear friend and tireless advocate, Mary Bianchini of Nyack, NY.

Throughout her life, Mary Bianchini has not only served her family and friends, but our communities with her unwavering kindness and commitment. She devoted a lifetime to service to others—as a nurse, as a media personality, and as a linchpin in numerous charitable endeavors. It is therefore appropriate that we reflect upon Mary's many significant accomplishments and as a dear friend to so many of us that we pause and express our love to her which she has showered upon us all these many years.

A cover story in the January–February 1987 issue of "Geriatric Nursing" recounted how Mary emigrated to the United States from Italy with her family at a young age. In 1929, she married the man her parents had chosen for her even before that union found a firm foundation in love. In fact, Mary remained married until her husband's untimely death in the late 1950's, nearly 30 years after their nuptials.

Mary was a devoted housewife and mother, but as happened with all too many Americans at that time, the Great Depression threw a wrench into her plans. Forced to find employment in a shoe factory, Mary had to seek new employment when that establishment burned down and upon applying to become a telephone operator at the Rockland State Hospital, she was told there were no vacancies, but would be hired if she would help out in patient care. From that experience on, Mary was dedicated to helping others.

Mary demonstrated a natural skill in caring for the ill. She became a licensed practical nurse in 1938, and soon earned a reputation statewide for her compassion, skill, common sense, and her advocacy for nurses.

Mary served as an officer in the New York State Practical Nurses Association from 1948 until 1962. In those positions, her reputation as a feisty defender of the underdog was assured. In the 1960's, Mary embarked on a completely new career as host of her own radio, and cable television programs. Soon, the movers and shakers in all aspects of society were seeking to be interviewed by this remarkable woman, not quite five feet high. Her popular broadcast interviews continued until well into the 1980's.

Mary, who was often referred to as "Rockland's First Lady," received many awards and recognition, including the American Heart Association "Queen of Hearts" in 1985, being cited by Governor Mario Cuomo for her service to our State, and as a strong supporter of my Congressional Citizens Advisory Committee on Drugs.

Perhaps Mary's greatest pride was in her own family. Her son, Dr. Valentino Bianchini, is a respected member of the medical profession, who has raised his own family following Mary's lifetime goals.

The poet John Dryden (1631–1700), once said, “So softly death succeeded life in her/ She did but dream of heaven/and she was there.”

Mary Bianchini will be sorely missed not only by all her family and friends, but by the countless people she has helped throughout her life. As we mark the passing of Mary ‘Bee,’ our good friend, this outstanding citizen, with her gentle heart, we convey our condolences and prayers to her family as we reflect upon her lifetime and service to us all.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE SCHLESINGER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Director of the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department (MWWD), Mr. Dave Schlesinger.

Dave is retiring after more than a decade of service to the City of San Diego. During that time he was responsible for managing the planning, design and construction of facilities associated with the upgrade and expansion of the Metropolitan Sewerage System which provides wastewater treatment services to 1.9 million residents from the fifteen cities and districts in the greater San Diego area.

As director of MWWD, Dave headed a team of more than 1,000 employees and full-time consultants, that are also responsible for wastewater collection services for the City of San Diego. The MWWD treats the wastewater generated in a 450-mile-square-mile area stretching from Del Mar to the North, Alpine and Lakeside to the East, and South to the Mexican border. I worked with Dave on a number of projects critical to San Diego. He was a key member of the team that successfully attained legislative approval of the so-called 301(h) waiver for the Point Loma waste treatment plant. This action saved literally billions of dollars for the taxpayers of San Diego. Without Dave's technical expertise and political acumen, we would not have been successful in this effort.

Dave's talents were also critical to last year's Congressional approval of the Bajagua project to treat Mexican sewage. Dave helped to develop the innovative public-private partnership that promises to solve a 50-year-old problem plaguing San Diego. We always relied on Dave's “sense of the possible”—both politically and technically—to get over the many obstacles we faced over several years.

Dave is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. He also holds a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He is a registered professional engineer in the Civil Discipline. He has had nearly 30 years of experience in planning, engineering and construction project management and facilities management. Prior to his service with the City of San Diego, he served as a U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer for 25 years. He retired with the grade of Captain. Dave is a member of the Society of American Military

Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Navy League of the United States. He is also involved in numerous technical and professional societies in the San Diego area.

The City of San Diego will greatly miss the services of Dave Schlesinger.

IN HONOR OF DAVID C. FORBES, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Doctor David C. Forbes, Sr., Senior Minister and Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church, on the occasion of his receipt of a doctorate in sociology from the University of Virginia. Doctor Forbes was one of eight children born in Raleigh, North Carolina to a Pentecostal Bishop and a sainted mother. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Shaw University, a Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University and Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary. He has also been awarded several honorary degrees, including a Doctor of Divinity by the Richmond Virginia Seminary, Doctor of Humane Letters by Shaw University and Doctor of Divinity by Shaw Divinity School.

Doctor Forbes was active in the civil rights movement during the 1960's having served as the North Carolina representative for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Doctor Forbes came to the gospel ministry after an extensive career in education, which included teaching at the elementary and university levels. He was also involved in counseling and social program administration. In addition to the ministerial role, he was Assistant Professor and Director of Admission, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University for some twelve years. From 1979–1984 Dr. Forbes served as Pastor of St. Peter Baptist Church, Glen Allen/Richmond, Virginia; and from 1983–1990 Senior Minister and Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Forbes currently serves as Consultant to the President and Dean of The Shaw Divinity School.

Doctor Forbes has also volunteered on numerous committees and boards. He currently serves on the Human Services Taskforce of The North Carolina Local Government Partnership Council, the Board of Building Together Ministries, Board of The United Way of Wake County, and the South-East Raleigh Improvement Commission. In addition, he has a number of publications to his credit. In fact, he is in broad demand as an evangelist, church development consultant, workshop facilitator and keynoter.

Dr. Forbes is married to the former Hazel Baldwin of Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina. He is the father of three children, a son, Reverend David C. Forbes, Jr. founder and Pastor of the Columbus Christian Center, Columbus, Ohio, and two daughters, Mrs. Cheryl Forbes Lassiter, a banker in Raleigh, and Denise Colene Forbes, a music teacher in Bronx, New York. Dr. Forbes proudly answers to “Pa

Pa” and “Grand Pa” to five grandsons and four granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Doctor David C. Forbes, Sr. has devoted his life to serving his community his church and his people. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today as he is awarded a truly hard-earned honor. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHOENIX HOME LIFE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, 1851 was an extraordinary year. Our country was 75 years old and on the brink of Civil War. In the midst of all the chaos, a small group of Hartford, Connecticut's leading businessmen, religious leaders, cultural and civic leaders, applied for a charter for the formation of The American Temperance Life Insurance Company, which would become Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company.

On Thursday, Phoenix celebrates its 150th anniversary. It has survived the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Great Depression, two World Wars and the societal upheaval of the late 20th century. Phoenix has endured because the company has always met the needs of its policyholders and customers while upholding its standards of integrity, and industry and community leadership.

Phoenix has through the years been a leader in product innovations: it was the first to insure the temperate, the first to lower rates for women (based on actuarial science), the first to offer policies that covered total families, not just individuals, and the first to lower rates for nonsmokers.

Phoenix has been a leader in business practice innovations: Phoenix was the first to require full-time dedicated agents and led the drive to make the sale of insurance a profession. Phoenix was also the first to develop a publication for its field force and the first company to use direct mail marketing.

Phoenix has been recognized ten times by Working Mother magazine as one of the Top 100 companies for working mothers. It was recognized for its efforts in providing childcare, workplace flexibility, leave for new parents, and advancement of women.

But perhaps most importantly, Phoenix's Chief Executive Officer, Robert W. Fiondella, has proven that the values of community and citizenship made good business sense. Phoenix encourages its employees to volunteer through a policy that allows them to devote 40 hours of company time per year to community activities, provided it is matched by the same amount of personal time. The company also rewards its top 20 professional advisors through its Donor's Award, a program that enables them to designate up to \$2,000 to a local charity. Since its inception, the award has benefited many organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Lou Gehrig Baseball and the Make A Wish Foundation.